
DIGEST

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Burford

HB No. 352

Abstract: Creates a permanent fund to pay group insurance premiums for retired sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in DeSoto Parish and provides for the deposit of certain monies into the fund, including limitations on investments and withdrawal of funds.

Proposed law creates the DeSoto Parish Retired Employees' Insurance Fund (DREIF), for payment of premium costs for eligible retired sheriffs and retired deputy sheriffs.

Proposed law provides that the following monies shall be deposited into DREIF until the total amount of the monies including principal and earnings in DREIF equals the sum of \$4 million:

- (1) 1% of the monies received in the DeSoto Parish sheriff's general fund each year, which shall be reduced to 1/2 of 1% once the DREIF equals \$4 million, but if the monies fall below \$4 million, the deposited monies will revert back to 1%.
- (2) Any other monies that the sheriff of DeSoto Parish may contribute to DREIF.

Proposed law provides that the monies in DREIF shall be invested by not less than 25% in equities and at least 25% in fixed-income investments, provided that the average credit quality of the fixed-income portion is rated investment grade.

Proposed law provides that the earnings on the invested monies shall be available for withdrawal for the sole purpose of paying the insurance premiums of retired sheriffs and deputy sheriffs and the legal representation costs for the DREIF Board, unless the earnings fall below \$4 million, then the premiums and legal representation costs shall be paid from the sheriff's general fund.

Proposed law requires that the deposited monies into the DREIF be used for the sole purpose of making income-producing investments.

Proposed law requires any financial audit by the sheriff's office to comply with all provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law requires the sheriff to establish a three-member investment advisory board consisting of the comptroller of the sheriff's department and two retired sheriffs or deputy sheriffs to be appointed by the sheriff who shall also determine their terms of office.

Proposed law requires the board to meet within 30 days after appointment of members and

provides for election of a chairperson at the first meeting of the board.

(Adds R.S. 13:5557.1)